CLAIMS

1. A projection system comprising:

a primary light source;

a backup light source;

a spatial light modulator; and

a controller configured to determine if the primary light source has failed, activate the backup light source, and project a message that the primary light source has failed.

2. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the backup light source is a low-power light source.

3. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the backup light source is a light emitting diode.

4. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the spatial light modulator comprises a digital modulator device comprising a set of mirrors wherein the message is projected off the set of mirrors.

5. The projection system of claim 1 further comprising an LCD that projects the message.

6. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the message is part of fault information and the controller is configured to manipulate a set of mirrors to display the message.

7. The projection system of claim 1 wherein light from the backup light source is used by the spatial light modulator to project the message.

8. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the message is projected without the use of the SLM.

9. The projection system of claim 1 wherein the message is projected using a template mask.

10. The projection system of claim 9 wherein the template mask is removable.

11. A method for indicating a primary light source out condition comprising:

determining that a primary light source has failed;

activating a backup light source; and

projecting a message that the primary light source is out to a screen used to show projected images from the primary light source.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the determining is performed by the primary light source indicating a non-operation condition.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the determining is performed by a sensor configured to receive a physical input from the primary light source.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the sensor is a thermal sensor.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the sensor is an optical sensor.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the message is included in fault information.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the projecting comprises transmitting the message through a light template.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the projecting comprises reflecting the message off mirrors of a DMD.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein the projecting comprises transmitting the message through a color shutter of a color prism.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein the message is projected directly to the screen.

21. The method of claim 11 wherein the message is projected through a template mask.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the template mask is removeable.

23. A projection system that comprises the method of claim 11.

24. The projection system of claim 23 wherein the projection system is a rear projection system.

25. The projection system of claim 23 wherein the projection system is a front projection system.

26. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for indicating that a primary light source is out, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

determining that a primary light source is not operational;

activating a backup light source; and

projecting a message using light from the backup light source indicating that the primary light source is out.

27. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the determining is performed by the primary light source providing an indication that it is not operational.

28. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the determining is performed by a sensor configured to measure a physical condition of the primary light source indicating operational status of the primary light source.

29. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the projecting is from a set of mirrors.

30. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the projecting is performed by manipulating a set of mirrors to reflect fault information conditions.

31. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the projecting is through a color prism.

32. The processor-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the projecting is performed by receiving a transmitted light message from a light template conveying the message.

33. A projection system comprising:

means for determining a condition of a primary light source;

means for activating a backup light source if the condition of the primary light source is determined to be non-operational; and

means for providing a message using light from the backup light.

34. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the means for determining is performed by a sensor.

35. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the means for determining is performed by the primary light source providing an indication of its condition.

36. The projection television system of claim 33 wherein the means for providing a message is performed by reflecting a message off a set of mirrors.

37. The projection television system of claim 33 wherein the means for providing a message is performed by reflecting a transmitted light message through a light template off a set of mirrors.

38. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the means for providing a message is performed by manipulating a set of mirrors to reflect the message wherein the message is part of fault information of the projection system.

39. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the message conveys that the primary light source is non-operational.

40. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the message conveys contact information of a service party.

41. The projection system of claim 33 wherein the message conveys fault information used to correct the non-operational condition of primary light source.